

February 4, 1983

Memo to File:


RE: Inspection of Happy Jack Mine
Atlas Minerals
ACT/037/024
San Juan County, Utah

The Happy Jack Mine has recently become subject of a new suspension notice. The Division inspected that site in order to assess the need for any necessary interim reclamation measures prior to agreeing to the suspension. Tom Tetting and Wayne Hedberg met with Ricky Broschat to perform the inspection on January 19, 1983. Access is directly south of Highway 95 at a turn near a tin shack (see maps).

The minesite is located in the remnant of an open pit uranium mine from the 1950's. Portals and adits are scattered from the east to the western end of the highwall. An impounded drainage runs through the center of the pad. The current state of abandonment looks as if Atlas' sublessee left in the middle of the night. An inordinate amount of trash, machinery, junk, food, garbage, scrap and materials litter the site. Waste rock has been moved to the west and pads built into the natural drainage southward. A large storage pile of timbers and scrap wood is located on the west end outside the mine permit area. Although the highwall appears to be the western limit of recent disturbance, evidence exists of current trash disposal beyond in the area south of the wood pile. The highwall also has waste rock situated upon it which is rapidly eroding causing a potential danger from drainage into the portal area from the top. Portals have gates which are half torn off. The three eastern adits have been secured.

In the letter to Atlas of January 26, 1983, four items of interim reclamation were requested from the company.

1. The central drainage channel should be reopened and made nonimpounding.
2. All portals should be made inaccessible.
3. Trash and garbage, e.g., discarded oil, transformers, solvents, batteries, food, leaking machinery should be removed from the site.
4. The incised drainage channel in the waste rock above the highwall should be regraded and/or ripped.

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TNT/btb